

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 136361
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-05 HA-05 CA-01 INSE-00 FBIE-00
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /036 R

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SCA/VO-JGARNER (SUBS)

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R 301912Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 136361

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, SHUM, SREF, CU, US, PN

SUBJECT: EXIT ROUTES FOR CUBAN REFUGEES

REF: STATE 68192, PANAMA 03370

1. WE DISCUSSED MATTER OF IMMIGRANT VISAS WITH HOLLADAY DURING HIS CONSULTATIONS HERE. WE UNDERSTAND GOC IS ALREADY AWARE WE ARE ISSUING IMMIGRANT VISAS AND WE FURTHER UNDERSTAND THAT MANY APPLICANTS, HAVING ONCE GOT EXIT PERMIT IN HAND, PREFER TO LEAVE CUBA AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLY, APPLYING FOR US IMMIGRANT VISA IN THIRD COUNTRY RATHER THAN GOING THROUGH PROCESS IN HAVANA. EVEN SO, WE BELIEVE THERE WOULD BE SOME MERIT IN ADVISING APPROPRIATE CUBAN OFFICIALS, AS OPPORTUNITIES PRESENT THEMSELVES, THAT WE ARE ISSUING IMMIGRANT VISAS IN HAVANA AND PREFER TO ISSUE THEM THERE TO CUBAN CITIZENS IF THAT SUITS CONVENIENCE OF APPLICANTS THEMSELVES.

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2. WE WOULD LIKE POST'S REACTION TO A MODIFICATION IN LANGUAGE IN LETTER NOTIFYING CUBAN BENEFICIARIES THAT I-130 HAS BEEN RECEIVED. PRESENT LANGUAGE REQUIRING BENEFICIARY TO ACTUALLY HAVE EXIT PERMIT IN HAND BEFORE COMING TO USINT APPEARS TO PUT US IN POSITION OF ENFORCING CUBAN RESTRICTIONS ON EMIGRATION AND HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF NEGATIVE

COMMENT IN CUBAN EXILE COMMUNITY. NEW LETTER COULD SAY THAT, WHILE WE UNDERSTAND EXIT PERMIT IS NECESSARY AND SHOULD BE APPLIED FOR IMMEDIATELY, WE WILL INTERVIEW THOSE PERSONS WHO WISH TO IMMIGRATE TO US WHETHER OR NOT THEY HAVE EXIT PERMITS, IF THEY SO DESIRE. SINCE POST ALREADY HAS BURDEN OF REGISTERING PETITIONS AND SENDING LETTERS TO ALL BENEFICIARIES, AND SINCE MANY CUBANS WOULD PROBABLY NOT WANT TO RISK WRATH OF CUBAN GOVERNMENT BY COMING TO USINT UNLESS THEY FELT THEY HAD GOOD CHANCE OF RECEIVING EXIT PERMITS, WE IMAGINE THIS WOULD NOT ADD GREATLY TO WORK LOAD. PLEASE ADVISE, AND REPORT ESTIMATE OF I-130'S ON HAND.

3. WE HAVE CHECKED VO STATISTICS FOR MARCH FOR POSTS WHICH WE BELIEVE TO BE MOST LIKELY PLACES WHERE EXILE CUBANS WOULD MAKE IV APPLICATIONS, AND HAVE COME UP WITH FOLLOWING TOTALS WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST TO POST: MADRID 31, KINGSTON 5, MEXICO CITY 5, PANAMA 3, CARACAS 7, BRIDGETOWN 0. INS IN MADRID HAS ALSO ISSUED 28 CONDITIONAL ENTRY DOCUMENTS FOR SEVENTH PREFERENCE IN FEBRUARY (LATEST MONTH AVAILABLE), DOWN FROM 92 IN JANUARY.

4. DEPARTMENT IS INVESTIGATING POSSIBILITY OF PUTTING X-RAY MACHINE IN HAVANA AT COST OF \$10,000, PRIMARILY TO DO IV PHYSICALS. PLEASE DISCUSS MODALITIES OF THIS WITH MED'S DR. BROWN ON HIS CURRENT VISIT TO HAVANA.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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